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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE

STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

(Use as many sheets as necessary)

| Sheet | 1 | of | |
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| Application Number | 10/040,834 | | |
| Filing Date | January 7, 2002 | | |
| First Named Inventor | Kazuhiro EBARA | | |
| Art Unit | 2856 | | |
| Examiner Name | J. Hanley | | |
| Attorney Docket Number | 36856.837 | | |

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| Examiner Signature | Jan Stand | Date Considered 3/7/04 |
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^{*}Examiner: Initial if reference considered, whether of not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered, include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹ Applicant unique citation designation number (optional). ²See Kind Codes of USPTO Patent documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. ³ Enter Office that issued the document by the two-letter code (WIPO Strandard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁴ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Abstract is attached. This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14.